

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner indicated that a reference to prior Application No. 10/255,471 needs to be inserted in the present Application. The Examiner further rejected Claims 1 – 3 and 18 – 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bonet et al. Claims 4 – 6 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

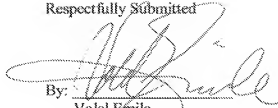
Accordingly in the present Response, Applicants have amended the Specification to include the reference to prior Application Serial No. 10/255, 471 and amended Claim 1 to include the limitations of Claims 2, 3 and 4. Hence, newly amended Claim 1 represents Claim 4 written in independent form. Further, Applicants have canceled Claims 2 – 4 and Claims 18 – 20 and amended Claim 5 to change its dependency from a canceled claim to a non-canceled claim.

Note that by amending Claim 1 and canceling Claims 2 – 4 and 18 – 20 from further consideration, Applicants are not conceding that the subject matter encompassed by original Claims 1 – 3 and 18 – 20 is not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner. Rather, Claim 1 was amended and Claims 2 – 4 and Claims 18 – 20 were canceled solely to facilitate expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue claims, including the subject matter encompassed by Claims 1 – 3 and 18 – 20, as presented prior to this Amendment and additional claims in one or more continuing applications.

By this amendment, therefore, Claims 1, 5 and 6 remain pending in the Application. Applicants believe that the Application is in proper form for allowance and kindly request allowance and passage to issue of the pending claims.

Appl. No. 10/773,427
Response dated 05/21/2008
Reply to Office Action of 03/20/2008

Respectfully Submitted

By: 
Volet Emile
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 39,969
(512) 306-7969

AUS920020446US2